

Arizona Invasive Species Advisory Council
January 24, 2006 1:00p.m. - 5:00p.m.
Arizona Department of Agriculture Conference Room
1688 W. Adams Street, Phoenix - Room 206

MEETING NOTES

Duane Shroufe (Co-Chair) began meeting (**call to order at 1:03 p.m.**) with a brief welcome statement. Mr. Don Butler (Co-Chair) made a brief opening welcome. Ms. Lori Faeth provided a welcome from the Office of the Governor and reiterated the importance of the Council to the Governor.

Larry Riley was asked to lead and facilitate meeting. Roll Call and attendance was taken. Twenty-eight people were in attendance. Mr. McMahon distributed the check-in form and indicated that it will be maintained and distributed to Council members. He also discussed the Web Page on the Governor's web site (www.governor.state.az.us/AIS) which will be our information dissemination point.

Review of Executive Order 2005-09

Larry Riley briefly reviewed Executive Order 2005-09 and its charge to the Council.

ACTION ITEM -Seek better federal and tribal representation.

Review of Notes from October 18, 2005

Notes from the October meeting of the Council were reviewed. There was discussion of the definition of Invasive Species as related in the October notes. Council members agreed that the definition that was adopted as a working definition was the brief definition from the Federal Executive Order:

Executive Order (13122) identifies an invasive species as:

An alien species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.

The definition in the draft October notes related the definition as adapted in National ISAC Subcommittee's draft 4 "Invasive species Definition Clarification & Guidance White Paper. The Council directed that the 'clarification' language be removed from the notes at this time.

The Council also indicated that discussion of the Mode of Operation of the Council discussion should be included in the Notes. That discussion should describe that the Council will operate in conformance with the Arizona Open Meeting Law. Work Groups of the Committee may not be subject to the Open Meeting Law, however they should operate in the spirit of the Open Meeting Law and post notice of the meetings.

With these modifications, Council concurred with the notes from the October Meeting.

An action item emerged from the discussion of the notes relative to the Open Meeting Law. It was suggested that a briefing be provided to the Council as a whole. Mr. Butler and Mr. Caravetta volunteered to have an Assistant Attorney General for Agriculture provide a brief overview for the Council.

Work Group Charters

Work Group charters, brief descriptions of the charges to the four working groups developed at the October meeting, had not been completed and distributed as promised. An action item was identified to complete those charters and distribute by January 27th.

Agency Self-Evaluation

Direction from the October Meeting was to have the survey of state agency authorities and activities modified into an electronic collection instrument. Council discussed a draft of a web-based survey (Zoomerang). There was consensus on the format.

Discussion of the survey ensued. Dr. Hall raised the question of whether the survey should probe for internal policy conflicts. Duane Shroufe indicated that internal policy conflicts may be present, but rather than dwell upon them at this point we need to move forward now to complete our initial charges. There are open-ended questions that allow for agencies to provide that kind of response if they wish (Q23).

Ms. Fenner suggested that working Group surveys perhaps should also be electronic. That can be accommodated.

Mr. Caravetta suggested reword Q9 to add Intra-Agency coordination. It was agreed to add another question to get to this point.

Mr. Werner indicated that Q5 needed to be clarified. We do not prevent species. He suggested a change to "Prevention of Introduction of Invasive Species". That can be accommodated.

Dr. Hull-Sieg asked if attachments can be submitted with the survey? The web based survey does not allow for attachments, however we can provide an e-mail / address link so that additional material can be submitted. That will be incorporated.

Council suggested adding a new category of questions to the survey that would include examples of other costs and issues that emerge from invasive species consequences. Mr. Eilerts indicated that some agencies may have database or tracking systems to track expenditures state wide, such as fire suppression, water conveyance, fish kills, herbicide application, mowing, erosion control, etc. of expenses related to invasive species. A family of questions will be added to the survey to attempt to address this point.

Ms. Fenner inquired about "How many people are involved at state agencies (or beyond) in invasive species management". They may not do that work 100% of their time, but many people may be involved. Address similar to money issues...ask how many staff have invasive species management activities as their principle or primary activity versus part time. The survey will be modified to touch on the point of numbers of FTEs directly involved on a part or full time basis.

Discussion turned to the need to attempt to estimate damages or losses to invasive species. It was unclear if this could be addressed quantitatively, but perhaps a qualitative assessment would be possible. We will attempt to touch on this point in a survey question; however, to assess statewide impact it may be prudent

to delegate this to a working group. An action item was identified for delegation of this item to Leadership and Coordination working group.

Mr. Shroufe indicated that AGFD will pull the trigger on getting this survey out to State Agencies this week. AGFD will be responsible for assembly of responses and sharing those with Council member.

A suggestion from council members was that the survey could be deployed to other organizations (Federal Agencies, NGOs, etc.) concerning Arizona issues. Ms. Fenner was working along those lines already.

ACTION ITEM - Distribute the web based survey to relevant state agencies this week. Responses will be due on February 15, 2006.

Presentation from Forest Health Oversight Council

Larry Riley introduced Mr. Mike Neal (APS) who sits on the Forest Health Oversight Council and works with its Education Committee. Mr. Neal explained the role of the Forest Health Oversight Council and its education and outreach component. There could be significant overlap and potential synergy between the Councils. Mr. Neal discussed existing outreach efforts and discussed the potential to use Media Events and Website links. The Education committee will meet on February 6th in Tucson meeting at U of A. Tom McMahon and Larry Riley may attend to report back to the Council..

ACTION ITEM - Have at least one staff person attend to identify possible linkages with the AISAC efforts.

Working Group Updates

Each working group presented information regarding their work thus far.

1) Leadership and Coordination – (members include Bruce Eilerts, Patti Fenner, Doc Lane, & Bart Worthington). Ms. Fenner provided an update and review of work thus far. Mr. Shroufe suggested that the work group may need to investigate the definition of invasive species further.

2) Anticipation and Outreach (members include Jody Latimer, Brian Moorhead, Glenn Fahringer, & Larry Riley). Ms. Latimer provided an update and outline. The work group urged consistency in Arizona; and consistency of terminology. She suggested that the council could begin to form a clearing house for brochures, information and educational material relative to invasive species. Who might serve as the long-term coordinator of such a clearing house? (AGFD, AZDA were discussed). Mr. Gerstenberger discussed the potential for the pet industry to provide Education/Info from the Business sector. Mr. Moorhead indicated that definition of invasive species is the next key item and Charter (for Working Groups) were needed.

3) Research and Information Management (members include John Hall, Carolyn Hull Seig, Jeffrey Lovich, Guy McPherson, & Ed Northam). Dr. Hall provided an update with a handout on the groups excellent outline. Dr. Hall led presentation and discussion.

Larry Riley announced that this is John Hall's last meeting, as he is moving to Virginia to take a new position.

Mr. Shroufe asked “How close are we to review and implementation of this Working Group’s products?” Products seem very well defined. Prioritization of research areas will take place in the future. As a result, this groups’s outline is ready for review by the rest of the Council. Once comments are received, the group can begin writing the narrative for their sections of the Plan.

Discussion turned to the organization of the outline as a possible model for all sections. The question was posed to the Council whether their suggested structure is easy to follow and is usable by all?

- 1 - Issue
- 2 - Current Status
- 3 - Recommended Actions

Consensus of Council was yes and the organizational structure was adopted.

ACTION ITEM - Council members provide feedback to group on outline. Jeff Lovich will be point person for this Working Group, but send review comments to Carolyn Hull-Seig

4) Control and Management (members include Bill Werner/Herb Guenther, Joanne Roberts, John Brock, Steve Fenn, & Jim Maynard). Mr. Werner provided an update, and indicated the need for the Charter, identify gaps. Dr. Brock provided additional update with discussion. The Working Group’s chart will be available soon.

ACTION ITEM - Next meeting – discuss/finalize structure for Working Group reports. Use structure similar to the Research and Information Management working group.

ACTION ITEM - Next meeting, working groups should report with expanded outlines.

Call to the Public (Don Butler suggested to put this section at end of next meeting)

Mr. Yavitz (Council Member) addressed the Council regarding the pressing nature of this issue and the timeliness of approaching the legislature. Council Co-chairs will address this issue with Ms. Faeth regarding funding for a native species preservation fund.

Dr. Brock discussed a Red Brome Symposium scheduled for mid-May. Information will be distributed when available.

ACTION ITEM - List of important meetings to attend concerning Invasive or Nuisance species to be compiled and posted on the web page.

Arizona Wildlands Invasive Plant Working Group (AZ-WIPWG) Discussion

Dr. Hall led the discussion on this item and recommended to Council to adopt the AZ-WIPWG list as a working list (see booklet) of invasive, non-native plants that threaten wildlands in Arizona.

Motion by Dr. Hall (2 parts)

- (1) use this AZ-WIPWG list as the Council’s working list for wildland invasive plants in Arizona; and
- (2) Council will oversee potential future updates to the list

Motion 2nd by Dr. Brock and Mr. Eilerts

Discussion: Ms. Latimer favored motion. It was clarified that the list is not regulatory.

Vote - **Motion passed** - unanimously

National Weed Awareness Week in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Brock briefed the Council on the event to be held February 27th to March 2nd. Dr. Brock will attend and report back to the Council.

Dr. Hall suggested that Dr. Brock carry the message that Arizona is getting very involved in weed control and/or invasive species management. Let Arizona Delegation staff know that Arizona is very concerned about this issue and that they should support appropriations associated with the recently passed Noxious Weed Control Act. Dr. Brock will develop talking points and share them with Council.

Motion entered by Mr. Eilerts

- (1) Support Dr. Brock (not monetarily) as representative of AISAC at National Weed Awareness Week.

Motion 2nd from John Hall

Vote - **Motions passed** – unanimously

Future meetings discussion – by Concensus

Next meeting dates were identified. Thursday, March 2, 2006; Wednesday, March 29, 2006; and Thursday, April 20, 2006. Mr. Caravetta will attempt to procure this room (AZDA – Room 206) for these meetings. Time for meetings will be 1:00pm to 4:00pm

Meeting adjourned at 4:01pm